GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:136
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2003
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister unveiled 28 pages Science and Technology Policy paper promoting sweeping changes in the scientific establishments;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken for setting up of National Science and Engineering Research Board and efforts made to raise the standards of university education as also empowerment of women in science and technology related areas in the policy; and;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government has recently announced a `Science and Technology Policy 2003` recognizing the changing context of the scientific enterprise, and to meet the present national needs in the new era of globalization. The policy reiterates India`s commitment to participate as an equal and vigorous global player in generating and harnessing advances in science and technology for the benefit of all humankind.

(c) & (d): The policy has indicated the need to examine the setting up of more efficient funding mechanisms, either by creating new structure or by strengthening or restructuring the existing ones for promotion of basic research. Government has already initiated a programme aimed at creating teaching and research infrastructure in Universities and other educational institutions. A scheme for `Scholarships for Women Scientists & Technologists` has also been recently announced.